

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1

Before line 1 of the specification (**after the Title**), please insert the following new paragraph:

This application is a continuation of co-pending Application No. 09/219,123, filed on December 23, 1998 and issued as U.S. Patent 6,686,964 on February 3, 2004, and for which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120; and this application claims priority of Application No. 9-358671 filed in Japan on December 26, 1997 under 35 U.S.C. § 119; the entire contents of all are hereby incorporated by reference.